

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /079 W

----- 073225

R 301144Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1438

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, KE, UG, TZ

SUBJ: COTU DIVIDED OVER DISMISSAL OF NON-KENYANS

1. KENYA TRADE LEADERS ARE DIVIDED OVER WHETHER TO SUPPORT OR OPPOSE SACKING OF NON-KENYANS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY. ISSUE HAS SURFACED IN WAKE OF BREAKUP OF EAST COMMUNITY CORPORATIONS, WITH ATTENDANT TERMINATION OF NON-NATIONAL COMMUNITY EMPLOYEES IN KENYA, TANZANIA AND UGANDA.
2. JUMA BOY, SECRETARY GENERAL OF CENTRAL ORGANIZATION OF TRADE UNIONS (COTU), OPPOSES SACKING OF NON-NATIONALS BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THIS WILL RESULT IN WHOLESALE TERMINATION OF KENYANS WORKING IN TANZANIA. BOY ENGAGED IN SPIRITED PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION OF QUESTION JULY 29 WITH MINISTER OF LABOR JAMES NYAMWEYA. NYAMWEYA DENIED IT IS GOVERNMENT POLICY TO DISMISS CITIZENS OF TANZANIA AND UGANDA EXCEPT WHERE SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS DICTATE. HE ALSO DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF REPORTED INCIDENTS OF SUCH FIRINGS IN COAST PROVINCE.

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3. BOY WAS DISSATISFIED WITH NYAMWEYA'S RESPONSE.

HE TOLD EMBOFF HE KNOWS FIRING ARE HAPPENING AND
UNLESS GOVERNMENT MAKES UNEQUICOCAL SHOWING OF GOOD
FAITH, TANZANIA (AND UGANDA TO LESSER DEGREE) WILL
MOVE TO EXPEL KENYAN WORKERS. BOY SAID HE PLANS TO
TAKE QUESTION TO COTU GENERAL COUNCIL.

4. BOY ADDED THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL CHARLES NJONJO
DISAGREES WITH HIM ON QUESTION, URGING THAT UGANDANS
AND TANZANIANS BE ENCOURAGED TO LEAVE KENYA.

5. PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSIONS WAS SPARKED BY PRIVATE
MEMBER QUESTION NOTING WIDESPRED UNEMPLOYMENT OF
KENYANS AND URGING FOREIGNERS BE DISMISSED TO MAKE
ROOM FOR THEM. SO FAR, DISCUSSION HAS REVOLVED MAIN-
LY AROUND EMPLOYMENT OF NON-NATIONAL AFRICANS, AND HAS
NOT FOCUSED ON SENSITIVE ISSUE OF NON-CITIZENS ASIANS
AND EUROPEAN EXPATRIATES.

6. NAIROBI "STANDARD" JULY 30 REPORTED COTU'S COAST
BRANCH MEANWHILE HAS ASKED ALL FIRMS AT COAST WHCIH
STILL EMPLOY NON-KENYANS TO HAVE THEIR SERVICES TERMI-
NATED IMMEDIATELY AND REPLACED BY KENYANS. IT ALSO
REPORTED DEMAND BY KENYAN WORKERS THAT NON-NATIONALS
BE DISMISSED FROM POSITIONS AT KENYA'S COMMUNICATIONS
SATELLITE GROUND STATION AT LONGONOT.

DECON 1-1-77.

MARSHALL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, POLICIES, FOREIGN TRADE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NAIROB08007
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760295-0003
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976075/aaaaadqx.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COTU DIVIDED OVER DISMISSAL OF NON-KENYANS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, KE, UG, TZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006